

Appl. No. 10/648,467

Amdt. AF dated November 21

Reply to Final Office Action of September 26, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed September 26, 2005. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments. Claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13 have been canceled. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 16. New claim 19 mirrors claim 10, but depends from allowed claim 17. New claims 18 and 20 depend from claims 16 and 17 and are supported, for example, by originally filed claim 12. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments, and no new issues have been raised. Thus, entry of this After-Final Amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Duhamel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,541,585. Claims 1, 3-6 and 11 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 16, which has been found to be allowable. New claim 18 mirrors claim 10, but depends from claim 17, which has also been found to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 3-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hu, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0112122, in view of Duhamel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,541,585. Claims 1, 3-9, 11 and 13 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. As noted above, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 16, which has been found to be allowable. New claim 18 mirrors claim 10, but depends from claim 17, which has also been found to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

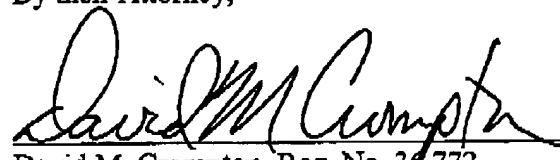
Respectfully submitted,

Terumasa Suyama et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: _____

11/21/05



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